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The dream of a national university, rooted in the painful struggle of our people, forms our vision for the College. And that vision, embraced by the people, will become a source of power, which will liberate the minds of our people to bring *the change*. The pain. The dream. The vision. The people. The power. The change.

The *national* University of The Bahamas – through the ongoing development of its teaching, research and community linkages to the exigencies of sustainable national development – must become entangled in the *real* needs for change in our beloved Commonwealth, and, thereby, embraced by the myriad of forms, identities and expressions making-up the Bahamian community and the future that this community hopes for itself. This national entanglement must be of a particular making though – one that preserves the critical *truth-telling* role of a national academy in a society. *My* University of The Bahamas would be a place of critical, intellectual reflection on the lived experiences of my people for the purpose of being an instrument for the advancement of that people.

As Chairman of the College of The Bahamas Council, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this special issue of the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*. The *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* is our flagship publication and a public demonstration of the College's research capability and its commitment to building a national university.

I am delighted that the Managing Editor has decided to devote an issue of the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies* to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the College of The Bahamas. The diverse selection of papers in this issue not only demonstrates the growth of the College from its humble beginnings in 1974, but also demonstrates its impact on Bahamian society. As we look forward on the eve of the College becoming a university, we can conclude, on the bases of the number of faculty with terminal degrees, the number of undergraduate, graduate and professional degree programmes offered, the research resources available and publications by faculty and students, that today the College is indeed a university in all but name.

I would like to congratulate all who contributed to this issue and those who made this publication possible. Their efforts underscore their commitment to the University of the Bahamas and to national development.

**Alfred Sears QC**  
**Chairman of the College of The Bahamas Council**